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And prefaced with a highly commendatory introduction by Prof. H. McCandless, Principal of the Ontario School of Agriculture, Guelph.

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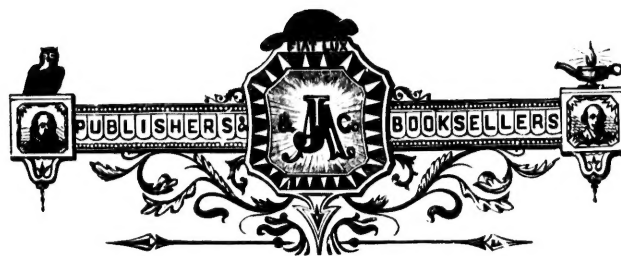
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AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE
Canadian Farmer's Manual of Agriculture.

TO MY BROTHER FARMERS OF CANADA.

THE want of a Canadian agricultural standard work has long been felt by our class. I have endeavoured to step in and fill the breach by laying before you the accompanying work, entitled

"The Canadian Farmer's Manual of Agriculture."

We are all well aware that farming is no sinecure in the way of work in Canada. Stout hearts and willing hands must be employed to win a way to fortune on our farms. But these are not the only necessary qualifications,—wages are high and hands are scarce; to pay the one and create a substitute for the other, increased knowledge and intelligence must be the instruments. To make farming profitable we do not require larger holdings; but the one thing needful is larger yields per acre. To attain such a desirable increase of production, a more thorough knowledge of the laws of growth, and the requirements of plant-life becomes necessary. This knowledge, which is in itself indefinite, I have endeavoured partially to provide in the following pages. It cannot be that any single work, especially of the proportions of the present, can cover *all* the grounds necessary to be touched upon in a treatise on the Principles and Practice of Agriculture. This work is not and could not be exhaustive, but where it fails to give full information, I trust it may at least set the reader "upon the right track." The farmer in Canada must be essentially a practical man. The reader will find advanced no theories that have not stood the test of practice. It has been my constant aim to adapt every chapter to the present state of agriculture in Canada. Topics on which the opinion of eminent farmers are divided, are treated from every standpoint; where I have given a personal opinion upon these common subjects of debate, it has been based upon no hobby of my own, but upon a mature consideration of the several arguments advanced by eminent authorities, and governed by my own and my neighbours' practical experiences. For instance, in the chapter devoted to Barn-yard Manure, I have set down the arguments of the advocates of Raw or Rotten, Long or Short; and the subject being one on which I do not feel decided, I have refrained from the expression of any dogmatical opinion. Whilst this is not a work of compilation, the reader will find scattered through its pages many quotations, in the citation of which I have endeavoured to give due credit. These selections, appropriate to the several chapters, I have been careful to obtain, in the majority of cases, from such authorities as I am aware, are, or have been engaged in actual farming in Canada, or in those States of the Union in which the soils, climate and systems of husbandry are generally of a nature similar to those of our Dominion. The central object which this work is intended to keep in view, is the demonstration of how farming may be made to pay—by the general improvement of the soil, of seeds and of methods of cultivation. With these few prefatory remarks I leave "THE CANADIAN FARMER'S MANUAL" in the hands of my brethren of the plough. That it may prove useful to them and a welcome addition to the agriculturist's library, is the sincere wish of the Author.

C. E. W.

The price of the work is placed so low that no Farmer can have a reasonable excuse for being without a copy.

INTRODUCTION BY PROF. H. McCANDLESS,

Principal of the Ontario School of Agriculture.

In all countries, and under all circumstances, the principles that underlie the art of husbandry are identical, but the practice through which they are brought to bear upon the cultivation of the soil must necessarily vary, owing to the modifications that are indispensable to bring that practice into harmony with surrounding circumstances.

Hence, while the scientific or theoretical literature of agriculture is of universal application, and may with success be imported, that relating to the practice of the farm should, to be of substantial use, be a home, and not a foreign production.

The present condition of Canadian agriculture demands the increase, if not the introduction, of such a literature, and it is gratifying to find that this want has a fair prospect of being supplied by the publication of such works as that which follows this introductory notice. In it the author has kept steadily in view the fundamental principles of true husbandry, and has, in harmony with them, endeavoured to sketch an agricultural practice in no way antagonistic to the modifying influences peculiar to the country.

This harmony is indispensable to successful farming, and unless it be established, no matter how suitable to a country a system of husbandry may otherwise be, it must inevitably fail to be successful. It may, under exceptional circumstances, appear for a time to be successful, but permanent it cannot be.

The system of cropping introduced by the early settlers of Canada affords a striking illustration of this fact; for a time it appeared to be everything that could be desired, but, owing to the fact that it was opposed to the fundamental principles of true husbandry, in depending upon the unaided resources of the soil, it was not, and could not be, permanent. Its success, even for a time, was due to the exceptional fertility of a rich virgin soil. Now, however, particularly in the older settlements, that exceptional fertility has been exhausted, and the skill of the true farmer becomes indispensable to successful cultivation.

Canadian agriculture is now in a transition state; it is gradually, but steadily, assuming the character of real husbandry, and to aid it in this transition is the mission that its agricultural literature has to perform.

Under such circumstances, no elaborate treatises on scientific or theoretical agriculture are demanded. What is wanted is a literature that will aid the farmers of the country in applying to the work of the field and farm-yard the principles upon which husbandry is based, and this has evidently been the aim of the author of the *Manual of Agriculture*.

In it the farmer will find no elaborate theories or intricate problems discussed, but a reliable book of reference that may be promptly consulted on almost any subject connected with his daily avocations.

To be of practical utility for this purpose, that reference must be easily made, and the convenient arrangement of the work makes it so.

Does the farmer require information on the building of a house or barn, on the treatment of his cattle in sickness, on the special cultivation of any particular crop, or, in short, upon any matter connected with the daily routine of farm management, he has but to open the index, and, without loss of time, refer to the page on which information upon that subject is given, and he will seldom refer to it and be disappointed.

Such a work must be of much value to the practical farmer, and it is to be hoped that thousands will avail themselves of the information it contains.

GUELPH, 28th May, 1874.

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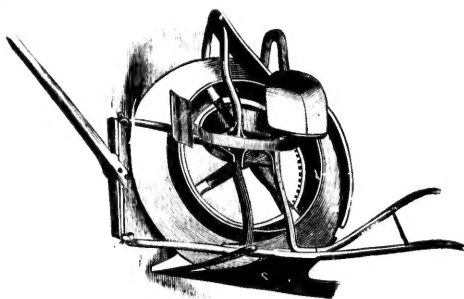
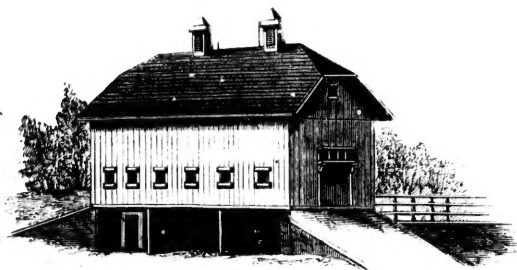
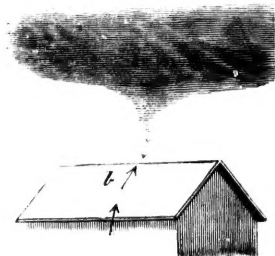
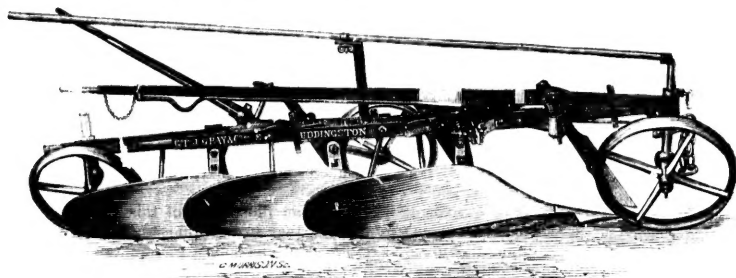
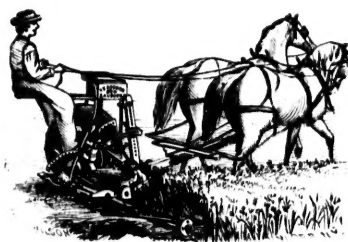
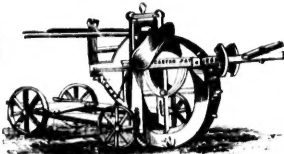
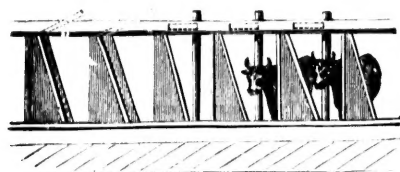


"This addition to agricultural literature professes to furnish the practical farmer with a reliable standard book of reference upon almost every subject connected with his daily avocations, and is conveniently arranged for easy access to any particular topic needed. The author appears to have spared no pains to render the work as perfect as possible, and upon those points in farm science where a diversity of opinion prevails, he has given fairly the latest views upon each subject without any attempt to attach an undue importance to his own particular ideas. In all cases the theories advanced are such as have stood the test of practice as applied to farming in Canada, which greatly enhances the value of the knowledge imparted. Throughout the work it has evidently been borne in mind that the present partially exhausted condition of the settled land in Canada, so different from the virgin soil tilled by the early settlers, requires a proportionate advance in the knowledge of agricultural science on the part of the farmer to ensure skilful and successful cultivation, while to quote the author's own words, 'the central object which this work is intended to keep in view, is the demonstration of how farming may be made to pay—by the general improvement of the soil, of seeds, and of methods of cultivation. The Book contains 572 pages, is well illustrated with wood-cuts, handsomely bound, and is on the whole a most creditable publication.'—*The Globe*.

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